

## **FY2006 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants for California**

### **Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants:**

\* Indicates partial funding awarded

**Butte County HCP/NCCP** (Butte County, CA): \$500,990. At the northern end of the Sacramento Valley, Butte County was largely untouched by the rapid urban growth in much of California until recently. Now however, it is being hit by an unprecedented surge of growth. The Butte County Association of Governments, the county, and its four incorporated communities have agreed to develop a HCP that potentially will cover 330,000 acres with up to 11 different vegetation communities, that are home to 15 federally listed species, including all known populations of the endangered Butte County meadowfoam, plus 15 other species at risk.

**Central Valley/BayDelta HCP/NCCP** (Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter and Tehama Counties, CA): \$238,000. The San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta) is the largest estuary on the West Coast, a maze of tributaries, sloughs, and islands. The Delta is critical to California's economy, supplying drinking water for more than 20 million Californians and irrigation water for 7 million acres of rich agricultural lands. The collaborative CALFED Bay-Delta Program seeks to assist in recovery of 19 imperiled species and 25 others. CALFED agencies want to develop a Delta HCP, covering up to 160,000 acres, to: 1) promote conservation and recovery, and 2) provide assurances for non-federal Delta-impacted water and power projects. In addition to this grant, the HCP will be supported with \$250,000 from non-federal sources.

**East Bay Regional Parks District HCP/NCCP** (Contra Costa County, CA): \$297,500. The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) will utilize this funding to develop a plan for managing its 13,000 acres of preserves consistent with and linked to the 30,000 acres of preserves that will be created by the neighboring East Contra Costa County HCP. The EBRPD HCP/NCCP will cover 7 listed and 18 sensitive species. Filling a key void, it will target critical corridors and habitat for San Joaquin kit fox, Alameda whipsnake, and California tiger salamander in a regional preservation strategy. EBRPD's Vasco Caves Preserve includes 50% of the critical habitat for the listed longhorn fairy shrimp.

**South Sacramento County HCP** (Sacramento County, CA): \$240,975. This HCP will cover 345,000 acres near an urbanized area that is under intense development pressure. It will cover 41 species, 8 of which are federally listed threatened and endangered. Vernal pool habitat exists in a large portion of the area and is under threat of development. Listed Sacramento Orcutt grass is found only within the boundaries of this planned HCP. In addition, this HCP may provide some protection for the Cosumnes River watershed, important spawning habitat for anadromous fish. Funding will be used to develop the first draft of a plan. The HCP will be coordinated with similar habitat planning efforts in 5 adjacent counties.

**Yuba & Sutter Counties HCP/NCCP** (Yuba and Sutter Counties, CA): \$450,000. Two adjacent counties have joined to plan protection for open space in the valley and lower foothill portion of both counties, covering 26 species on 200,078 acres. The boundaries were drawn in order to address the majority of the growth that will occur along the Highway 70/99 corridor. The proposed plan area includes portions of the Bear, Feather and Yuba river and the Honcut Creek watersheds, primarily agricultural lands, and significant vernal pool/grasslands, riparian and riverine habitats, wintering habitat for a variety of migrant bird species, wetland habitats and, potentially, small patch ecosystems. The HCP/NCCP will be coordinated with similar habitat planning efforts in adjacent counties.

**Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants:**

\* Indicates partial funding awarded

**\*Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard HCP** (Riverside County, CA): \$3,108,000. This grant will contribute to the acquisition and conservation of blow-sand habitat for the federally endangered Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard. Acquisition of these parcels will complement reserve lands established under the Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard HCP by conserving sand source lands that are integral to the conservation of the species.

**\*San Joaquin Multi-species HCP** (San Joaquin County, CA): \$6,531,054. This project will acquire ecologically valuable habitat for eight federally listed species, including San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, three vernal pool shrimp species and 24 unlisted, but at-risk species. The parcels are part of the largest contiguous annual grassland remaining in the area, and contain more alkali grassland, alkali wetland, and vernal pools than any other portion of San Joaquin County or adjacent east Contra Costa County. The land will play a pivotal role in establishing a northwest-southeast movement corridor for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox, and protect habitat of regional importance for the threatened California red-legged frog and other species covered by the HCP.

**Western Riverside County MSHCP** (Riverside County, CA): \$12,000,000. This grant will fund the acquisition of approximately 450 acres in the San Jacinto River area and 128 acres in the Santa Rosa Plateau area to benefit 18 federally listed species. The acquisition of land in the San Jacinto River area will conserve core populations of several federally listed plants, including spreading navarretia, San Jacinto Valley crowscale, thread-leaved brodiaea, and slender-horned spineflower. Conservation of these lands along the San Jacinto River will also protect one of three major populations of the federally endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat. The acquisition of land in the Santa Rosa Plateau area will protect one of the most ecologically significant complexes of vernal pools in southern California that supports populations of the Riverside fairy shrimp. Other species that will benefit from acquisition of these lands include California Orcutt grass, Munz's onion, least Bell's vireo, and the coastal California gnatcatcher.